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*The Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism (GOSV) is a unit of the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives. Through federal funding, the GOSV annually sponsors [15 AmeriCorps State programs](#) that support over 600 AmeriCorps members. These members provide support for disaster services, economic opportunity, education, environmental stewardship, healthy futures, and veterans and military families in Maryland. The GOSV also advocates for effective volunteer program management and recognizes volunteer service across the state on behalf of the Governor of Maryland.*

**Immediate Release**

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## **Governor Martin O'Malley Announces \$1.5 million in AmeriCorps Grants**

### **Local AmeriCorps Programs will Engage Maryland Residents in Intensive Service**

**Annapolis, MD (May 7, 2014)** – Governor Martin O'Malley announced today that five organizations in Maryland have received AmeriCorps competitive grants from the Corporation for National and Community Service. The Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism (GOSV) will distribute more than \$1.5 million in funding to organizations selected in a highly competitive national process.

The grants will support over 500 AmeriCorps members who will serve in Maryland to strengthen education, provide disaster services, assist veterans and military families, preserve the environment, expand health services, and foster economic opportunity.

"National service is an essential part of the solution to many of the challenges facing our State," said Governor Martin O'Malley "These AmeriCorps members will meet pressing local needs and strengthen communities as they develop civic and leadership skills to last a lifetime. I congratulate these outstanding organizations and thank all those who serve their communities through AmeriCorps."

"AmeriCorps members make a powerful impact on the toughest challenges facing our nation," said CNCS CEO Wendy Spencer. "Building on Maryland's strong tradition of neighbor helping neighbor, AmeriCorps members will improve lives and strengthen communities across the state. As they serve others, AmeriCorps members will also expand opportunity for themselves - gaining

skills and experience to jumpstart their careers. As we mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of AmeriCorps, we salute AmeriCorps members for their dedication, and thank our outstanding partners who make their service possible.”

In addition to the grant funding, CNCS will make available \$2.7 million in Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards for the AmeriCorps members funded by these grants. After completing a full term of service, AmeriCorps members receive an award of \$5,645 that they can use to pay for college or to pay off student loans.

AmeriCorps engages more than 75,000 members in intensive service annually to serve through nonprofit, faith-based, and community organizations at 25,000 locations across the country. These members help communities tackle pressing problems while mobilizing millions of volunteers for the organizations they serve.

2014 marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the AmeriCorps program. Since 1994, more than 830,000 Americans have provided more than 1 billion hours of service addressing critical challenges from poverty and hunger to disasters and the dropout crisis.

Below is a listing of the 2014 AmeriCorps competitive grants in Maryland.

- Civic Works, Incorporated  
Grant funding: \$447,831  
AmeriCorps member positions: 128  
AmeriCorps education awards: \$253,964

Civic Works' Service Corps will engage 128 AmeriCorps members each year, who will leverage an additional 1,000 volunteers each year, to educate students, make housing more affordable, and help low-income communities access and learn about healthy food in Baltimore City. At the end of three years, 105 AmeriCorps members (35 per year) will complete a college course within one year of service; 975 students will show academic improvement; 1,500 houses will be made more affordable for low-income families; and 1,200 children will receive nutrition education. This project will focus on the CNCS focus areas of Economic Opportunity, Education, and Healthy Futures.

- Department of Natural Resources – Maryland Conservation Corps  
Grant funding: \$308,655  
AmeriCorps member positions: 35  
AmeriCorps education awards: \$197,575

In the Maryland Conservation Corps (MCC), 35 AmeriCorps members will leverage an additional 1,000 volunteers. At the end of each one-year period of service, they will have improved 1,000 acres of public lands in Maryland state parks and other public lands, and improved or created 125 linear miles of trail. Members of this youth corps will work in crews based in seven Maryland State Parks, geographically located to best address pressing needs. This project will focus on the CNCS Focus Area of Environmental Stewardship.

- Reading Partners  
Grant funding: \$126,349  
AmeriCorps member positions: 10  
AmeriCorps education awards: \$56,450  
This grant will support proven literacy intervention program in six Title I elementary schools in Baltimore, Maryland. The 10 full-time Reading Partners AmeriCorps members

will recruit and manage 360 community volunteers to provide one-on-one literacy tutoring to at least 300 struggling readers in grades K-5 twice a week during the September 2014 - August 2015 program year. 65% of students who complete the program will advance their literacy skills by at least one full grade-level. This project will support the Education Focus Area for CNCS.

- Teach for America  
Grant funding: \$284,000  
AmeriCorps member positions: 355  
AmeriCorps education awards: \$2,003,975

AmeriCorps members will serve as teachers for low-income students, resulting in improved academic performance among beneficiaries and AmeriCorps members remaining in the education field after service. The program will serve in 115 schools in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Prince George's County, MD.

- Volunteer Maryland  
Grant funding: \$399,904  
AmeriCorps member positions: 32  
AmeriCorps education awards: \$180,640

Over three years, AmeriCorps members will be placed at up to 90 service sites across Maryland to develop or improve direct service volunteer programs. Leveraging at least 9,720 volunteers, these AmeriCorps members will enable service sites to provide more services, improve the effectiveness of their volunteer programs, and increase organizational capacity to manage volunteers. At the end of the 3-year grant period, volunteers will have served 97,200 hours and at least 66 service sites will have implemented effective volunteer management practices and will report that AmeriCorps member activities have helped make the Service Site more efficient. A capacity-building program, Volunteer Maryland will place AmeriCorps members at service sites focusing on the CNCS focus areas of economic opportunity, education, healthy futures, environmental stewardship, disaster services, and veterans and military families.

In August, the Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism will announce additional AmeriCorps grants supported by \$2.2 million in AmeriCorps formula funding.

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